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Sent Wednesday, October 13, 2010 3:37 am

To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

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Subject OBJECTION TO EXPANSION AND INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL SPECIES TO HIHWNMS MPR

To Whom it May Concern:

We the members of the Maui Co operative Fishing Association object to the expansion and inclusion of additional species to the Hawaii Island Humpback Whale Marine Sanctuary. We also object to the expansion of the Sanctuary boundaries.

We see it unnecessary for expanding the boundaries of the sanctuary as it was NOT the reason for the recovery of the humpback whale, but the global cessation of commercial whaling. We see that Humpback whale sanctuary and it's boundary as unnecessary as we in Hawaii don't hunt whales.

We see it unnecessary to add other species as these species are already protected under the Endangered Species Act and or under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Duplicating and or creating a sanctuary of such is unnecessary as it will be a waste of the hard earned tax payers dollars. Of what value is the sanctuary for these far ranging animals or species after they leave the sanctuary? Again the sanctuary will be useless to protect the species. The North West Hawaiian Islands were closed, as one reason to protect these creatures, and yet they are declining??? Was a study done to find out why the declining population???

We feel that moving the Monk Seal to Main Hawaiian Islands is a bad idea. NOAA says that there is too much inaction between the human population and the Monk Seal and yet they move the Monk Seal to the Main Hawaiian Islands. Does that make any sense??? Take them farther to the north west where there is less seal and human interaction makes better sense. Another reason to keep the Monk Seal in the north west is the MS is endemic to the Hawaii Island Chain but NOT to the MHI, technically the MS becomes an alien species. History shows that they will cause problems, mongoose, taape, roi and toau are causing a lot of damage to the MHI ecosystem. The MS is prone to do the same. There are already problem with attacks on the human population. Think about what will happen as the MS population increases in the MHI in a few years??? An EIS is strongly suggested to avoid such a problem. Don't let history repeat itself. Think about it???

Recent data indicates that HB Whale numbers is estimated at 18,000 animals. We feel it's time to move ahead as the Hawaiian HB Whale is no longer endangered and the Hawaii HB Whale Sanctuary no longer necessary.

One part we will support is the on going education and outreach program to protect the HB Whales, maintaining the efforts for the existing regulations and enforcement, and working with the community to be aware of the HB Whale and their habitat. A Sanctuary is not necessary to do these elements and studies.

Yours Truly:
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